



# **John Reich Journal**

Volume 9 / Issue 1

October 1994

# JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues ..... \$15.00

For general membership information or letters to the Editors  
or articles for publication, please write to the Co-Editors:

Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG

Keith G. Bellman, NLG

P.O. Box 135

Harrison, OH 45030-0135

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Office of the President, David J. Davis

P.O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1798 Bust Dollar (B11b, BB111)  
The finest known specimen of this rare obverse die state  
and tied for finest known of the variety.  
[ex B&M January, 1992:1268]  
Photos courtesy of Bowers and Merena Galleries.

# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the  
**John Reich Collectors Society**

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## Editors' Comments

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 9 of the **JRJ**. The latest ANA convention is now history and we have all survived the Detroit battle zone. There were plenty of 'new' Bust Halves to view at the show, but a definite lack of original pieces of the other denominations relating to the Reich issues. There were a few cherries reported from the floor in the half series and at least one neat half dime. Congratulations to the new owners.

The meetings were a success and the educational forums offered were wonderful. We would like to thank everyone involved with preparing such interesting talks for those who wished to attend. We also would like to say how much we enjoyed meeting everyone who attended the programs and the open houses. The interesting conversations available during the after hour meetings are always worth the trip.

The official meeting of the JRCS enriched the treasury with the sale of an advance copy of member Edgar Souders upcoming book. The manuscript, **Bust Half Fever**, will be available soon. Watch the pages of the **JRJ** for a money saving offer. The auction of the advance copy was called by co-editor Brad Karoleff. Spirited bidding ended with our treasurer Russ Logan owing \$400 for the autographed manuscript. Thanks to Myron Xenos and Ken Lowe of Gold Leaf Press, and author Edgar Souders for the donation. Thanks also goes out to Russ Logan for his perseverance in being the high bidder in the auction.

The presentation by Brad Karoleff on the hubs of the Capped Bust Half Dollars followed the auction. Slides were shown of the different Hubs used for the series and the differences were explained. Brad also presented his theory that the stars on 1834 O113 and O114 were hubbed for the only time in the entire series. The stars on the dies for Overton 113 and 114 are in the exact same position. This could have only happened from hubbing.

The authors of the upcoming book on half dimes told us that the project is coming along fine, but without a definite timetable for completion. They promised only to tell us next year of their progress. We all wish them luck and speed to completion.

Another of our members, Keith Davignon, told us of the progress on his book on counterfeit half dollars. He hopes to release it through Gold Leaf Press sometime in the next year. We are all very anxious to see the finished product. Hopefully we

will be able to report its availability sometime in Volume 9, along with a money savings offer to JRCS members.

Steve Herrman also would like to remind the membership that his updated version of the half dollar prices realized list is available. He donates part of the proceeds of each sale to the treasury of the JRCS. You may order a copy direct from Steve at 2817 South Jay Street, Denver, CO 80227 for \$15.00. Your co-editors are always referring to their copies, and have just received the new expanded edition.

Also, for those interested in Bust Half Dollars, your co-editor, Brad Karoleff, has co-authored **Bust Half Quotes** with Pierre Fricke. This is the fifth edition of the Quotes with prices on the varieties in grades from Fine through AU, and for the three levels of eye appeal of scudzy, average, and choice. The halves from 1794-1836 are covered. The cost of the book is \$20 including shipping, \$5 of which will be donated to the JRCS treasury. You can order by sending your check made out to Brad Karoleff to P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030. The donation to the JRCS treasury will be made on all orders received through the P.O. Box.

JRCS would like to thanks Sheridan Downey for his recent membership drive on our behalf through his mailing list. We have acquired about 25 new members as of press time of this Journal. Sheridan, we all appreciate your efforts to introduce new members to the club.

It now gives us great pleasure in announcing last years winner of the **Jules Reiver Literary Award**. We must first apologize for the delay in being able to announce the winner. Because of the delay in the last **JRJ**, the votes could not be counted before the ANA and we accepted all ballots sent by the end of August. Nearly every article received at least one vote and the final tally was very close. We would also like to thank all the authors for their submissions and hope that you will all send us something for future publication. Oh yeah, the winner of the **Jules Reiver Literary Award** for Volume 8 is . . . David Finkelstein for his article *Obverse Die Dentil Analysis, Part 1 and Part 2*. Congratulations David for a job well done.

Now we would like to present the first contenders for the next **Jules Reiver Literary Award**. Ladies and Gentlemen dig in and enjoy the following pages. Maybe something you read will encourage you to send in an article you have written. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as this will be the last issue until after the FUN show in January. Hope to see many of you there and at the open house to be held in the Clarion Hotel on Thursday and Friday nights.

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Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman

# Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points



In my letter to the editor in Volume 8, Issue 3 (April, 1994), I postulated that there were 17,500 Capped Bust Halves on the bourse floor of the ANA show in Baltimore. Further, I figured there would be approximately 17 per dealer. While there may have only been 450 tables, there were certainly more than 1000 dealers at the show. I recognized a few dozen who didn't have tables, and my knowledge of dealers is limited to a fifty mile radius around

Washington, D.C. Many others must have come from the other 49 States.



My postulations were not intended to relate any type of accurate census. I merely wished to show how many times more survivors there must be relative to the number calculated by another author which was 336,095. Robert Hilt has suggested a survival rate for early Draped Bust and Flowing Hair Half Dollars of 1.35%. Breen suggests 13% for the Capped Bust Halves. Assuming the true answer lies somewhere in the middle, we are looking at a survival quantity of between 1.1 million and 11 million. This is in line with the 2.5 million minimum I projected. One should take note that Hilt's survival rate is for very early coins, and that the actual survival rate for the later Capped Bust Halves should be greater.

I will certainly stand corrected on the designer of the 1836-1839 reeded edge halves. Of course Christian Gobrecht cut the dies. Any novice can see that there is no relationship between the reeded edge halves and their Reich-designed predecessors. I apologize to any one I may have offended by this error.

David Kenny





Awhile back (Volume 8, Issue 2, pages 13-14), I Included a list of the deluxe leather bound editions of the Beistle book known to me and asked that members send me information on any additional copies that they know of or owned. I heard from four of our members and wonder if there are others who still have not written.

One of our Ohio members called and said that he owned No. 32, one of the books not in my list, and that he had been able to get deluxe edition No. 32 of the third edition of Overton, edited by Don Parsley. Our editor, Brad Karoleff, told me that he received No. 76 as a gift from an older collector who used to ride to the local coin club meetings with him. Inside the book was a receipt. for same, from the Coin Gallery 5/17/1954 auction sale for \$12.50 plus postage \$13.03.

A St. Louis, Missouri member, who apparently has been collecting bust halves for a long time, said he bought copy No. 61 from Bebee's shortly after World War II.

Don Parsley wrote that he owned copy No. 51 and stated that Overton did not issue a deluxe edition of either the 1967 or 1970 books. He also stated:

The third edition, which I edited, was published with the 100 special edition volumes at the insistence of the book collecting crowd which kept hounding me. The special edition did completely sell out at \$125.

There is in fact an after market sale which was recorded in Sheridan Downey's last mail bid sale. Lot 282 was a 1967 first edition signed by Al which brought \$268 including commission. Lot 283 was a 1990 third edition, special edition #18, which brought \$202 (high bid of \$200) including commission. Somewhat surprising as Stu Keen has been advertising the two or three remaining special editions in his continuous coin world ads at \$95.

That brings my total to 22 copies in the compilation and the numbers include 10, 14, 30, 32, 33, 38, 41, 51, 52, 61, 71, 76, 88, 103, 109, 110, 114, 116, 131, 133, 134 and 135. Are there any more out there??

Finally, I want to compliment our co-editors and all of the authors for four great issues of Volume 8 of the **JR Journal**. Keep up the good work.

David J. Davis



Dear Dr. Stark,

I very much enjoyed your article in the **JR Journal**, Volume 6, Issue 1 (August, 1992) entitled *Die Deterioration of a 1798 Dollar (B-28 Reverse)*.

You suggested that "coinage exhibiting intermediate die stages was probably struck." I would like to report an intermediate die state between your B28b and B28c. This would correspond to Bower's Die State III, "not detailed by Dr. Stark, but probably made."

A 1798 B28 dollar I recently purchased in EF has all of the characteristics of your B28b. In addition, the break to the tip of the second feather below the banner now extends through the P, passes through the top left tip of the first star and the tip of the highest point of the first star and extends into the second cloud. Your "fifth break" is starting to form and is very faint. On my specimen the break appears to start on the outside of the right center of the 0. It continues through the wing end along the bottom of AM upward through ERIC and stops just short of the rim over the second A.

My dollar has no evidence of the "sixth break" from the rim below the leaf stem through the center of the nearest A. Nor has your "seventh break" from the stem to the claw to the leaf begun to form.

Not described by you, but evident, is a faint break forming between the first four vertical bars and the second four vertical bars of the shield. This extends up from the top right of the "parallel die crack" (rim, about the arrow ends to the shield border). It corresponds to the upper right boundary of the later state of the parallel-like cracks, B28c and B28d.

W. David Perkins



Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$15.00, as payment of my dues for the upcoming 1994-1995 club year. There is perhaps no greater bargain in all of numismatics than membership in this fine organization.

When I read all of the fussing and whining that appears in the letters to the editor columns of the numismatic weeklies, pronouncing that the hobby of coin collecting is dead, I cannot help but wonder if they could possibly be speaking of the same hobby that I enjoy and love so well. I am happy to state that numismatics is alive and well, in the hearts and minds of variety collectors, chiefly in organizations like the JRCS.

Stephen A. Crain





One day in the summer of 1835, a young craftsman decided to create a necklace for his lady love. He thereupon proceeded to gather from circulation fifteen half dimes. Next, he skillfully drilled two holes into each coin, top and bottom. The holes having been drilled, he then linked the half dimes with small circular steel links so as to form a string of fifteen coins, with the three centermost coins joined in a triangular arrangement. Finally, the two end pieces were joined to a narrow steel chain link to complete the necklace.

Our craftsman, while intending to please his lady love, was, possibly the first 'collector' of baby busties. The story is of course hypothetical, but the necklace itself is real: it was recently purchased in a local auction and undoubtedly represents a 15-coin sampling of capped bust half dimes in circulation around 1835. The coins, although each twice holed, average EF+ in terms of wear, and consist of the following, in sequential order (last two digits of date - "V" #) : 29-4, 32-10, 29-4, 34-1, 32-2, 30-5, 32-5, 30-8 (pendant coin), 32-8, 32-3, 31-5, 33-7, 34-1, 29-5, and 30-3.

J. Alan Bricker



RE: David Kenny's article, *Mintage Quantities of Federal Coinage: A New Perspective Derived from the Study of Eagles* from the **JR Journal**, Volume 8, Issue 4 (July, 1994)

While I found David Kenny's article about deriving accurate mintage figures for Eagles interesting and informative, I must disagree with the notion that you can derive mintage figures from existing specimens. All early gold has had a history of wholesale meltings and the discovery of random hoards similar to late date Double Eagles and Morgan Dollars. To guess at original mintages from existing specimens is at best pure folly, and at worst historical deception.

Using statistical analysis of survivability is important to all collectors, but should be used only for the purpose of determining actual rarity. The only place to find the true information about original mintages is in The National Archives from original documents. If those documents do not hold the answer, then there is not much more you can do about it except guess, and mintage figures should not be a guess.

Richard Snow  
JRCS #507

(PPP continues on page 15)

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# Another Remarriage in the Capped Bust Half Dime Series

**Stephen A. Crain**

Recent articles in the **John Reich Journal** by J. Alan Bricker in Volume 7, Issue 1 (October, 1992) and Mark Smith in Volume 7, Issue 2 (January, 1993) have introduced some of the first discovered examples of remarriages within the Capped Bust Half Dime series. A subsequent article by Russell J. Logan in Volume 8, Issue 1 (October, 1993) introduced the very first identified example of this interesting phenomenon in the Capped Bust Half Dollar series.

To better understand and appreciate the significance of these intriguing aberrations to the variety collector, it might first be helpful to briefly review the nature and cause of remarriages. I will then detail the discovery of yet another remarriage in the Capped Bust Half Dime series.

Die variety collectors of early Federal coinage have learned to identify specific obverse and reverse dies within a series with the aid of the pioneering reference works by Sheldon <sup>(1)</sup>, Overton <sup>(2)</sup>, Valentine <sup>(3)</sup>, Browning <sup>(4)</sup> and others. Such identification, or attribution, has been greatly facilitated by the introduction of Jules Reiver's excellent Variety Identification Manuals (VIMs) <sup>(5)</sup> on many of the early issues.

Armed with such detailed information, collectors are able to designate the pairing of specific obverse and reverse dies, known as a marriage, that result in the striking of coins of a specific variety. Locating and identifying examples, or varieties, struck from each of the known die pairings, or marriages, is the 'stuff' that variety collecting is all about.

It has been rather well documented that the early Mint of the 1830s employed a somewhat random, almost haphazard, system of selecting specific dies for use in the striking of coins. The coiner typically had at his disposal an assortment of both new and used obverse and reverse dies, some of them damaged, some repaired, and even some obverse (dated) dies left from previous years. Typically, new dies would be utilized until they became clashed, cracked, or otherwise damaged, at which time they were removed from the press. They were then put back on the shelf for repair or subsequent reuse, and replaced with another die. This was often done with little attention to which specific die was chosen. More often than not, only one die of the obverse/reverse pair was replaced at any given time. There was no attempt to keep a specific die pair, or marriage, together. Regardless of the reason for the die substitution, such a change would result in a new marriage, and thus a new variety.



As new dies were produced, the die sinker would often be required to repunch certain numerals, letters, stars, or even dentils into the softened die steel to correct errors or to achieve the proper alignment and strength, or depth, of the device being punched. These 'repairs', or corrections, left tell-tale evidence imparting a unique identity to a specific die. Similarly, each time a die was damaged, through clashing, cracking, or just plain wear, it left identifiable characteristics that enable variety collectors not only to identify the specific die, but to place it chronologically in its working lifespan as well. In addition, repairs such as lapping or filing also serve to identify the chronology, or die state of the die. Thus, through detailed study of such anomalies on extant examples of early coinage, it is often possible to reconstruct the emission sequence, or order of striking, of the varieties within a specific series.

There are many known examples within the Capped Bust Half Dime series, where obverse (dated) dies were (re)utilized in years after the date that appeared on them. This was evidently an interim or emergency measure to meet specific coinage demands when other properly dated obverse dies were not available. Such non-standard practices by Mint employees would suggest that a detailed study of progressive die deterioration might prove more accurate in determining the specific date of striking, or emission sequence, than mere observation of the very dates appearing on the coins themselves. These practices, now outlawed in the present day Mint, must also call into question the published mintage figures for any given year. While a specified mintage figure might very well express the correct number of coins struck in a given year, the date appearing on any early Capped Bust Half Dime may bear no relationship to the actual year of production.

In light of this seemingly random nature by which specific dies were selected for use in the coinage presses, it would seem entirely probable, even likely, that a specific die pair, once used together to strike coins, and then subsequently separated, might at some future time be reunited and pressed into service once again to strike more coins. Such reuniting of a die pair is termed a remarriage, and is the subject of this article and the cause of no small amount of excitement within the variety collecting fraternity.

It is possible, although difficult, to determine the existence of a remarriage only through a very detailed microscopic study of the progressive deterioration of one specific die. Accordingly, these remarriages have remained virtually undetected for over one hundred and sixty years. Although half dimes have enjoyed brief periods of popularity in the past, perhaps due to their relative affordability, in recent years they have declined in popularity, losing favor to their larger and more readily available sister denominations. Certainly the lack of a comprehensive reference manual on the half dime series, in the manner of the masterful treatment of the Capped Bust Dimes by Davis, Logan, Lovejoy, McCloskey and Subjack <sup>(6)</sup>,



or the revised Overton reference on Bust Halves <sup>(7)</sup>, has also contributed to a general lack of interest in the series. Recent articles appearing in the **John Reich Journal**, and associated research on the part of a few dedicated specialists, have helped to focus new attention on the half dime series.

Many of the significant Bust Half Dime collections of the past contained only single examples of each date, with no attention paid to varieties. **The Classification of the Early Half Dimes of the United States**, published by Harold P. Newlin in 1883 <sup>(8)</sup>, devoted a scant single paragraph to the entire Capped Bust Half Dime series. This provided early collectors with little information or incentive for the identification of varieties. In 1927, Will W. Neil provided collectors with the first significant treatment of the series - *The United States Half Dimes* - appearing in two monthly issues of **The Numismatist** <sup>(9)</sup>, in which he identified fifty-three different varieties. Although incomplete, and at times equivocal, it was a modest beginning. A mere four years later, Dr. Daniel W. Valentine published **The United States Half Dimes** that has remained the accepted reference work on the subject to this day. This work is plagued with imprecise, vague and ambiguous verbal descriptions that make positive attributions difficult, and identification of remarriages a virtual impossibility. Only in recent years, due in great part to the contributions of the JRCS and its members, have specialists begun to study the many die varieties inherent in the series, and to assemble collections with representative examples of each. The Stewart P. Witham collection <sup>(10)</sup> was the most significant among these collections. Present day half dime specialists, armed with precise die variety and die state descriptions and with access to multiple examples of each variety, have begun to reconstruct an emission sequence for the series. This research has made the identification of remarriages possible. One such example follows.

While at the 1993 ANA Convention in Baltimore, I was determined to locate an example of the 1830 V5 (presently rated R5) that had eluded me through several years of searching. My quest was rewarded by not just one, but two examples of this scarce variety which were gleaned from the offerings of two different dealers. After careful study, I opted to purchase them both, as I perceived them to be two different die states.

Upon returning home, I undertook a more detailed (microscopic) study of both pieces, than was possible on the crowded bourse floor. Both Valentine and Reiver list two die states for the V5, differing only in the filling of S1 on the latter state. I noted that the reverse die (4237) was also used on the 1831 V6, and that Valentine concluded on page 24 that, "This die was first used in 1831 in No. 6." This revelation prompted a review of the reverse die charts in the **JRJ** Volume 6, Issue 3 (July, 1992, page 22), and of the emission sequence for the varieties sharing this common reverse. [See Note I at end of article].

In addition to the two examples (both die states) of the 1830 V5, I was fortunate enough to have four examples (representing three different die states) of the 1831 V6 in my collection. Thus, with examples of all of the known varieties, and nearly all of the known die states before me (lacking only the 1831 V6a EDS). I was determined to establish the emission sequence for the use of this reverse die. Presumably, this would simply involve the mere confirmation of Valentine's postulate - that the 1831 varieties were struck before the 1830 dated coins.

With all six specimens placed obverse down in front of me, I closely studied the evidential progression of reverse die deterioration, and arranged the coins in their apparent order of emission. Once irrevocably convinced of the emission order, I turned the coins over to discover a most unexpected and unlikely sequence:

1830 V5a, 1831 V6b, 1830 V5b, 1831 V6c, 1831 V6d

Convinced that I must be seeing things (or perhaps not seeing something), I repeatedly studied the reverses only to arrive at the very same and unmistakable sequence each time. The grades of the coins studied ranged from F-12 to AU-50, and the diagnostics were both obvious and convincing.

Anxious for confirmation of my conclusions, I shipped the entire grouping of six coins to fellow collector and friend, Mark Smith, for his learned comments and observations. Mark added an additional six specimens of his own (three 1830 V5s and three 1831 V6s), and with this expanded census of now twelve coins, he was able to positively confirm my observations and conclusions.

The very early die state (VEDS) 1831 V6a was missing from both Mark Smith's and my own collection. It is perhaps noteworthy that at the time this initial research was conducted, and when the first draft of this article was prepared, neither Mark nor myself owned, or had even seen, the VEDS 1831 V6a, which has no filling of S2. The existence of the 1831 V6a had been documented by both Valentine and Reiver, although it does not appear in the Valentine photographic plates. It was only after this article was initially submitted that the evervigilant Mark Smith located an example of the 1831 V6a VEDS and forwarded it to me for inclusion in the article. It would appear that the early die state V6a is considerably more scarce than the later die states (V6b, c, d) for this otherwise very common variety.

When the elusive 1831 V6a die state is added to the previously listed emission sequence (at the very beginning, as the earliest die state known thus far), we can tentatively confirm Valentine's postulate - that the 1831 was indeed struck before the 1830 dated coins.





1830 V5a - Tops of UNIT clear (not touching).



1830 V5a - Top of S2 filled. Left side of M1 filled.

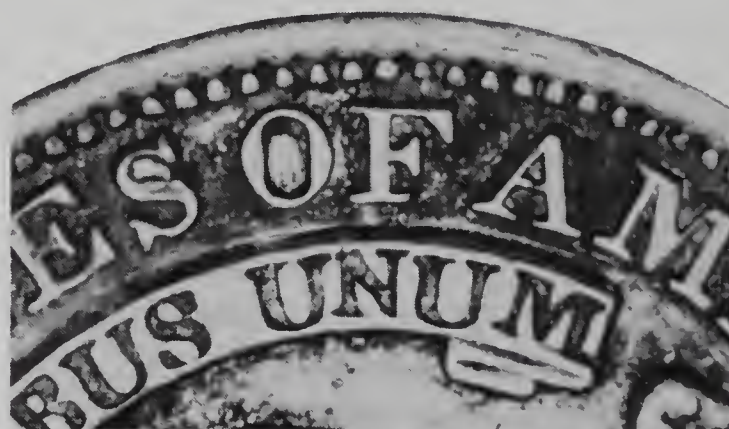
But could Valentine have been aware of this triple remarriage resulting from the reciprocating use of two different obverse dies with the common 4237-2 reverse die? It is unlikely that he was aware of the remarriage, and of the intriguing emission sequence, as follows:

1831 V6a, 1830 V5a, 1831 V6b, 1830 V5b, 1831 V6c, 1831 V6d

The following is a description of the progression of die deterioration for the 4237-2 reverse die as it is presently known. All attribution descriptions are cumulative, and significant diagnostics appear in bold type in the order they appear.



1831 V6b - Tops of UNIT still clear.  
No cracks at NIT. N1 not filled.



1831 V6b - Left side of M1 filled but not the right side.



Proposed Emission Sequence for the 4237-2 Reverse Die

- 1831 V6a    Tops of UNIT are clear (NI close but do not touch).  
              T1 high.  
              No filling of S1 or S2.  
              **Left side (only) of M1 filled.**
- 1830 V5a    Tops of UNIT are clear.  
              Top of S1 not filled.  
              **Top of S2 filled.**  
              Left side (only) of M1 filled.  
              Stem visible to lower berry.  
              Faint or partial stem to upper berry.  
              Center dot in horizontal shield lines.
- 1831 V6b    Tops of UNIT still clear  
              (No cracks at NIT; N1 not filled)  
              **Top of S1 now filled.**
- 1830 V5b    Tops (serifs) of U1 joined.  
              Tops of NI joined.  
              (No cracks from letters to rim; IT not joined).  
              **Right side of N1 filled.**  
              **Right side of M1 now filled.**  
              Upper berry has no stem.  
              Slight crumbling evident under right side of top of T1.



1830 V5b - Only tops of U1 and N1 are joined. Right side of N1 now filled.



1830 V5b - Right side of M1 now filled.

- 1831 V6c    **Tops of IT now joined.** (NIT all joined at top).  
 (No cracks from letters to rim).  
 Die crack at arrowhead 2 just beginning - very faint.  
 Lower berry has stem.  
 Upper berry has no stem.  
 Further filling under right side of top of T1.
- 1831 V6d    **Cud (rim break) at NIT** - solidly joins tops of NIT.  
 Connects to rim left of N1 and right of T1;  
               raised (loose) section of die retained by collar.  
 U1 faintly joined to N1 at top.  
 Faint die crack from top of D1 to rim.  
 Die crack from rim to arrowhead 2 to arrowshaft 1.  
 Die crack from left wingtip to leaf to rim.  
 Die crack from ball of 5 to rim.  
 Die crack from right end of scroll to top of right wing.

TERMINAL DIE STATE (?)



1831 V6c - Tops of IT now joined. No cracks from letters to rim.



1831 V6d - Cud (rim break) at NIT solidly joins tops of NIT and connects to rim.



It is certainly possible that there could be more remarriages of these dies, occurring either before, after or perhaps between or within the marriages outlined here. Collectors are encouraged to study their specimens of the 1830 V5 and 1831 V6 varieties, and to compare them to the emission sequence offered herein. The author makes no pretense that the emission sequence presented here is complete, or all-inclusive, and enthusiastically encourages input and correspondence from others to confirm or refute these findings. It is only through such exchanges of information that the 'science' of numismatics can evolve.

So, of what particular significance are these remarriages of previously known dies? Their full significance to variety collectors is yet to be determined, but it is interesting (and perhaps a bit curious) to note that they have already spawned more than a little controversy and debate over whether or not they 'must' be included in any truly complete die variety collection. As, to the author's knowledge, no fully complete die variety collection, consisting of all ninety (90) presently known varieties, has ever been assembled. This may be a moot point. At least two collections presently comprise 89 varieties, both lacking the presently unique 1833 V10, but to my knowledge no collection has ever contained all 90. (Should anyone care to dispute this point, it would make for a very interesting future article.) But why the debate over the inclusion of remarriages? Who, but yourself, determines what is to be included in your own collection? Such decisions are personal, based upon individual tastes, budgets, interests and a high degree of luck. They are certainly not determined by any standardized rules. Lest we forget, this is, after all, still a hobby, presumably pursued for relaxation and enjoyment. As for myself, I shall eagerly pursue all of the known remarriages, and others yet to come, as it affords me yet one more reason to collect this fascinating and intriguing series of early United States coins.

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PLAUDITS, PANS AND PERPLEXING POINTS

(PPP continued from page 7)



For those of you who have not yet ordered Stew Witham's biography of Johann Matthäus Reich, not only should you be sure to do so, but also please use the proper zip code. Books are available directly from Stew by sending him a \$20 check for each copy desired. Address to Stew Witham at 104 North Circle Drive, North Canton, OH 44709. Please include a street address for USPS shipping.

(PPP continues on page 39)



## Citations

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- (7) Al C. Overton, **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794-1836**, Third Edition, Editor Don Parsley, 1990.
- (8) Harold P. Newlin, **A Classification of the Early Half Dimes of the United States**, John W. Haseltine, 1883.
- (9) Will W. Neil, *The United States Half Dimes*, Serial in August and December 1927, **The Numismatist**, Reprinted in Valentine 1975.

- (10) The Stewart P. Witham collection of Capped Bust Half Dimes was the most complete and highest grade collection ever sold at public auction. It consisted of 81 different varieties (of the 83 identified at that time), in an average grade of AU-58. The collection was sold by RARCOA in May of 1977 (listed as the Freeman Sale). A complete listing of the collection appears in the *Condition Census - Capped Bust Half Dimes 1827 - 1836* by Russell J. Logan in the **JR Journal** Volume 3, Issue 2/3 (December, 1988, page 35).

## NOTE I

A Note should be made here of an error appearing in the Capped Bust Half Dime die charts appearing in Volume 6, Issue 3 (July, 1992) of the **JR Journal**. I had compiled these charts from information taken from Jules Reiver's **VIM** in the hope that they would assist others, as they had me, in studying the recurring use of the various obverse and reverse dies. No new information appeared in the charts, and no attempt was made to verify or correct any information presented. It was simply a more convenient format in which to present known information. However, in light of subsequent research, we are now able to correct certain erroneous information contained both in the **VIM** and the charts.

Jules indicated that the 4237 reverse die used on the 1829 V4 and V5 (and V17) was the same die used on the 1830 V5 and 1831 V6. We now know that this is not correct; there are two distinctly different 4237 reverse dies, as follows:

### 4237-1 (1829 V4, V5, V17)

Long, full extended top to the 5.

UN touch at top; ED well spaced.

### 4237-2 (1831 V6, 1830 V5)

Small, triangular top to 5.

UN widely spaced, U1 slightly below N1; ED nearly touch at base.

Alignment of I3 would indicate a more accurate description as 4337.

J. Alan Bricker correctly made note of this error in his previously cited article on remarriages.

It should not be surprising that two distinctly different dies, each with the same numerical designation, could be construed as one, particularly when both exhibit other, similar diagnostics. I would be very surprised if this were the only remaining example of such confusion in the series; there almost certainly are more. (e.g., 2115-1, 2115-2; 4225-1, 4225-2).



# A Study of Bust Half Dollar Rotations

Dave Rutherford

The occasional offering of Bust Half Dollars with the reverse in a different orientation than normal, led me to record the degree to which the reverse/obverse were out of the standard alignment for the coins in my collection. Subsequently, two other collectors shared their results with me of similar studies they had made of their collections. The results of these studies are recorded here.

Misalignment is normally measured in degrees clockwise from 0 to 360 degrees. So when the coin is flipped to the reverse, if 50 C. is at 8 o'clock instead of the normal 6 o'clock position, the reverse is said to be rotated 60 degrees. If on the other hand, 50 C. is at 4 o'clock the reverse is said to be rotated 300 degrees. In the following, rotated 'left' means that the reverse had a standard rotation from 10 to 180 degrees, i.e. that the 50 C. appears left of the reverse were not rotated. If the degree of rotation were from 180 to 350 degrees, we have labeled the rotation as 'right' since the 50 C. appears to the right of its normal position. Only coins with a degree or rotation between 10 and 350 degrees were considered as being out of alignment. This was due to measurement difficulty and the lack of a standard reference line on reverse and obverse of the coin to determine minor misalignments.

year	rotated left (10°-180°)	rotated right (180°-350°)	year	rotated left (10°-180°)	rotated right (180°-350°)
1807	1	0	1823*	0	3
1808	0	2	1824*	0	6
1809*	4	0	1825*	0	6
1810*	3	0	1826*	0	11
1811*	4	0	1827*	1	6
1812*	5	0	1828*	1	9
1813	4	1	1829*	0	11
1814	3	2	1830*	8	3
1815	0	1	1831*	0	9
1817*	0	8	1832	2	4
1818	4	2	1833	1	4
1819	1	0	1834*	1	14
1820	0	2	1835*	0	14
1821*	0	7	1836*	2	8
1822*	0	3			



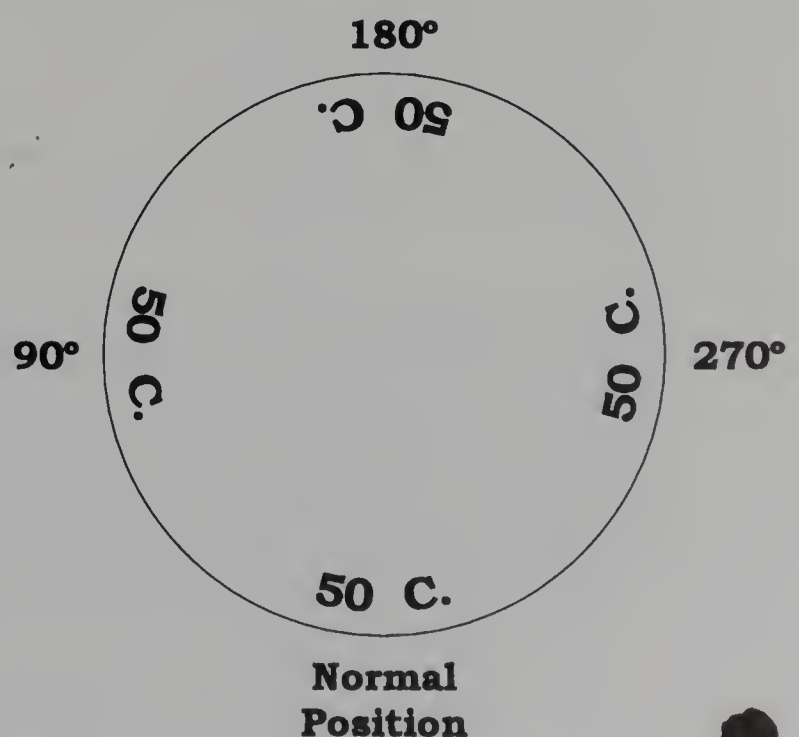
Before recording the results, I would have thought that rotations would be equally likely in either direction. The observed rotations, however, seem to indicate that there was a consistent bias for left rotations in early years and for right rotations in later years. The change over point seems to be 1816, the year the mint burned. The year 1830 seems to be out of line with this observation. I have marked the years with an '\*' where it is unlikely that the observed results would have happened if rotation in either direction were equally likely.

Based on the results from the three collections, it would seem that about 30% of Bust Halves have the reverse rotated from 10 to 30, or from 330 to 350 degrees. Rotations between 35 and 325 degrees were uncommon with only 3 coins represented (50, 60 and 315 degrees). Only one example of a die variety was found where the rotations were in 'different directions' (1818 O108, one 25 degrees and one 340 degrees). In all other cases, coins of the same die variety were rotated in the same direction or had no rotation.

There would seem to be three possible ways in which coins could be struck with the reverse rotated. The mint personnel could have placed the dies in the minting equipment improperly, (i.e. improper alignment from the start). The set screws which held the dies in place worked loose during striking and subsequent strikes imparted a rotation from the loose die(s). The direction of this rotation could depend upon the design of the coin or upon the design of the screw press itself. As an example, tap the corner of a 2x2 holder containing a coin. If tapped on one corner, the coin will rotate in one direction, if tapped on another corner the rotation will change. So we could expect that loose dies, when used to strike a coin, could impart a rotation. This could be due to high points on the design or the fact that the surfaces of the dies were not parallel to each other.

The unanswered question remains . . . how were the rotations caused? Were they caused by the coins design, the minting equipment, the mint personnel or some combination of all three means? Based on this data, we can not make a claim for any of the causes. If any other Bust Half collectors have recorded the rotations of their coins I would be interested in communicating with them.

I would like to acknowledge the help of Lenny Schramm and Dick Barry who shared the rotation information from their collections with me, as well as ideas on how the rotations could be caused.



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# **Bust Dollar Census and Update**

**Russell J. Logan**

A short four years has passed since the last JRCS Bust Dollar census, but more has happened during this time span than during the previous forty. The discovery of the silver plugged 1795 dollars was documented by Kenneth Bressett in the March 1993 issue of **The Numismatist**. Dave Bowers published his long awaited multi-page, two volume epistle on Silver Dollars later that same year.

Included with my request to members for information for this Bust Dollar census was a request for comments relative to Bowers' new Silver Dollar book and new input for our rarity ratings. I am happy to report that two distinguished JRCS members took the time and effort to reply to each of these subjects.

Jim Matthews, a JRCS Board member since 1986, submitted a comprehensive review of the first 468 pages of Q. David Bowers new Silver Dollar book:

My review of **Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States** left me with the impression that I was finally reading the book on Bust Dollar that I had always wanted to write. As my collecting specialty focuses on the early or Bust Dollars, I will limit my review to this particular area of the Silver Dollar book. Over the last several months, I have been able to work with the book and have enjoyed the exhaustive information provided. Several significant auction descriptions are included which represent many of the great collections of Bust Dollars formed by collectors. While this information is useful to have, it does add about 70 pages to the book. However, a significant number of rare auction catalogs are noted and the prices realized make for great reading.

The die varieties are presented by date and presumed emission order. However, as with most early coinage, often dies were paired several different times, making for all sorts of confusion in a variety emission sequence. It appears that the Bowers-Borckardt emission sequence is the result of careful study and is a great improvement over any prior attempt at an emission sequence for Bust Dollars.

It has always been frustrating to work with the Haseltine-Bolender numbering system because of the later discoveries, such as the 1795 B16, B18, B19 and B20, which are Flowing Hair varieties, but fall after the Draped Bust varieties of 1795 B14 and B15. Haseltine numbered his varieties starting at number 1 for each year, and continued with successive numbers until all known varieties were listed. Bolender then adopted the Haseltine numbers, and where several varieties were later proven to be different die states rather than different dies, Bolender simply noted that certain Haseltine varieties did not exist. This produced gaps in the numbered varieties under the Bolender system. I have always admired Dr. Sheldon's solution of the Non-Collectible varieties in the Large Cent field, and almost wish the 1795 B16, B18, B19 and B20 could be considered too rare to collect, and somehow removed from the numbering sequence of collected varieties with a notation like NC.

The Bowers-Borckardt numbering system has eliminated the out of sequence varieties and closed the gaps created by Bolender dropping the errant Haseltine numbers. However, the Bowers-Borckardt system leaves gaps for potential new discoveries after each type and date change. I realize that it would be initially confusing to have a 1798 B4 also referred to as a 1798 BB7, but I would prefer this over a 1798 BB92. Any numbering system has its faults and it will be a matter of time until the market adopts the new BB numbering system. I will attempt to use both the Bolender and Bowers-Borckardt numbers for now. One can see that silver dollars may soon become like half cents, where many people use the numbering systems of Gilbert, Cohen and Breen to identify their coins.

In addition to the new numbering system, a new rarity rating system has been added. The rarity system is the Universal Rarity Scale, and is noted on page 22 of the Silver Dollar book. While this system is more accurate than the current Sheldon Scale (Rarity 1 to 8), it does add another layer of confusion for those of us who have been using the Sheldon scale. Luckily, each variety lists a Condition Census and total number known, making for easy conversion to the Sheldon scale for us old-timers.



The Condition Census of known varieties is the first attempt at quantifying Bust Dollar varieties. There are, no doubt, many coins missing from the Census, but most of the significant auction sales and private collections are included. The Census also provides the collector with significant knowledge as to what coins and grades are out there. If the Bust Dollar collectors would be willing, I am sure a number of changes and improvements could be made to the Condition Census, as well as the positive identification of coins that have appeared in several auction sales being entered multiple times as reappearances in the Census. Any census requires vast amounts of work, and it is clear that the Bowers-Borckardt Census represents a milestone in the Bust Dollar field.

In summary, the new silver dollar book by Bowers-Borckardt represents countless hours of work, and it clearly must have been a labor of love. The information provided will allow any novice collector to learn much of the available knowledge on Bust Dollars. I find the new numbering system to be a bit cumbersome, but I have no better solution for correcting the long standing errors of Haseltine and Bolender. As the book contains so much information, it is too large to take to most coin shows, and does not lend itself to easy attribution while an agitated dealer looks on. Perhaps Jules Reiver will come out with a rapid finder for Bust Dollars, which could be taken to coin shows for quick reference while looking over a dealer's stock. In time, the coin market will decide if we all switch to BB numbers and the Universal Rarity Scale, and I believe both to be improvements over what is currently in use.

What Jim says concerning the lack of a rapid finder makes a lot of sense. What the collector needs is a means of quickly identifying a specific die marriage without fumbling through a six pound, 1100 page epistle on the bourse floor. The act of identifying a coin must be simplified; so must its rarity relative to its common type.

David Perkins, a frequent contributor to the **JR Journal** and avid Bust Dollar collector, compiled a Bust Dollar rarity comparison chart. His scholarship, combined the original Bust Dollar census published in Volume 5, Issue 2 of the **JR Journal**, Jules Reiver's quick finding reference, Milferd H. Bolender's ratings (when given) in his reference book, Douglas Winters rarity observations as published in the first three Volumes of the **JR Journal**, and the new Bowers book. From this information he derived many new rarity ratings and most of them have been used for this census. We still prefer to list just one rarity rating per die marriage and calculate an average grade as opposed to different rarity rating for each grade of the same die marriage.

Almost 200 years after their manufacturer, the numismatic fraternity discovered that many 1795 silver dollars had been altered before striking by the insertion of a 8mm silver plug into a hole drilled (pierced?) thru the center of the coin! Most scholars jumped to the conclusion that they were manufactured in order to salvage under weight planchets. This sounds logical enough, but has anyone looked for adjustment marks on these plugged dollars? Are we sure of the silver fineness of both the plugs and planchet? Would any of our readers be willing to document all the known plugged dollars in hopes that their past might somehow reveal some quirk overlooked by previous students. This would be an ideal project for JRCS to support.

Although the Bust Dollars were the first U.S. silver coins to be studied in depth, their popularity as a series collected by die marriage has diminished to the point where they command a greater premium from either the type collector or the date collector. Maybe all this will soon change. Let's hope so.

Oct-94

Based on 12 censuses submitted

B#	BB	R#	006	310	018	013	165	033	446	205	251	219	020	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1794	1	1	4	20	12										2	16	20
1795	1	21	2	15	15	50		35							4	29	50
	2	20	3	20	20										2	20	20
	3	11	5	25	15		35								3	20	35
	4	14	3	50	20								15		3	28	50
	5	27	1	30	40	25		8			20		50		6	29	50
	6	25	4	40											1	40	40
	7	18	3	25	25										2	25	25
	8	15	7	10		20									2	15	20
	9	13	4	40	40	45									3	42	45
	10	22	6	40	20		30	20							4	30	40
	11	12	6	40	30	40				12					4	31	40
	12	26	6	30	25	15	10								4	20	30
	13	24	4	30	50	40	35			20					5	35	50
	14	51	2	45		50		35					63		4	48	63
	15	52	2	40	45	55			30	15	25				6	35	55
	16	23	8	15											1	15	15
	18	17	8												0	0	0
	19	19	8												0	0	0
	20	16	8												0	0	0



# BUST DOLLAR CENSUS AND UPDATE

Oct-94

Based on 12 censuses submitted

	B#	BB	R#	006	310	018	013	165	033	446	205	251	219	020	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1796	1	66	4	35	40											2	38	40
	2	63	4	40	35		45									3	40	45
	3	62	8													0	0	0
	4	61	3	60	30	40							30			4	40	60
	5	65	4	45	40	45	45	50	45		20	35				8	39	50
	6	64	8	20												1	20	20
1797	1	73	3	50	30	45		40	45	30	20	20	40			9	35	50
	2	72	4	40	20	40	20		25				45			6	32	45
	3	71	2	45	50	45	45		55	35						6	46	55
1798	1	82	3	45	50	40				35	15					5	37	50
	2	81	3	35	58	50		12	45	40	15		45			8	41	58
	3	94	4	50	30	40		35		50						5	43	50
	4	92	4	50	20	40				50			20			5	36	50
	5	93	5	40	50	25	35	50								5	38	50
	6	96	3	40	40	50										3	43	50
	7	95	5	50	20	15										3	28	50
	8	125	2	45	25	45	30	50								5	36	50
	9	121	5	50	45		40	40	20							5	39	50
	10	109	4	40	30			45								3	35	45
	11	111	3	50	50		15	45	15							5	33	50
	12	120	4	50	35	12	30	55	30							6	31	55
	13	108	2	45	12	55			30	40						5	36	55
	14	122	3	40	30	50		45	35							5	39	50
	15	112	3	35	30				45							3	37	45
	16	110	5	50	53	25	40	30								5	42	53
	17	101	5	50	50	25	45	40								5	43	50
	18	103	7	30												1	30	30
	19	106	5	40	45	40	15	40								5	35	45
	20	102	4	50	45			45								3	48	50
	21	107	4	55	50	50		45								4	52	55
	22	104	3	45				45								2	45	45
	23	105	4	35					45							2	40	45

# BUST DOLLAR CENSUS AND UPDATE

Oct-94

Based on 12 censuses submitted

B#	BB	R#	006	310	018	013	165	033	446	205	251	219	020	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1798	24	124	2	50	30	20		55							4	33	55
	25	123	4	45	30										2	38	45
	26	114	5	50	45										2	48	50
	27	113	2	40	40	40			45						4	41	45
	28	118	3	55	45	50		40						45	5	50	55
	29	119	3	40	25										2	33	40
	30	116	5	45	50	50	40	58	30						6	43	58
	31	115	6	50	50	57	45			30					5	46	57
	32	91	6	40	15	40	20	40							5	29	40
	33	117	7	50	40		45								3	45	50
1799	1	142	4	30				45		35					3	33	45
	2	143	4	60	40										2	50	60
	3	141	3	50	40	50	40	48	40	40	35				8	43	50
	4	153	4	50	45										2	48	50
	5	157	2	40	30	50									3	40	50
	6	162	4	40	12										2	26	40
	7	156	4	40				45						35	3	40	45
	8	165	3	40	50	50		35	20						5	39	50
	9	166	1	45	40	45	15	45	30						6	37	45
	10	163	2	55				58	35		30		30		6	37	58
	11	161	3	40		35		40	30						5	34	40
	12	160	3	50		50	30	45			30				5	40	50
	13	151	6	45			25								2	35	45
	14	167	4	35	45	53									3	44	53
	15	152	2	30	35										2	33	35
	16	158	2	45	50	25		50	20	35					6	38	50
	17	164	2	45	20	53		48							4	42	53
	18	154	5	30	45	45	30								4	38	45
	19	155	4	45		50		15							3	48	50
	21	169	3	45	30	45		55	40						5	43	55
	22	168	5	40	30		25	15	22						5	26	40
	23	159	4	50	40	45	45	45	35						6	43	50



# BUST DOLLAR CENSUS AND UPDATE

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B#	BB	R#	006	310	018	013	165	033	446	205	251	219	020	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1800	1	181	5	50	30										2	40	50
	2	182	6	50	50										2	50	50
	3	183	5	55	40	50									3	48	55
	4	186	4	40											1	40	40
	5	189	5	40	25	50									3	38	50
	8	188	4	30	50	50		25		30					5	37	50
	10	190	3	30	45										2	38	45
	11	191	5	40	40	25	50			40		20	50		7	38	50
	12	184	2	60	40	50									3	50	60
	13	193	4	45	25	45		45	40						5	39	45
	14	194	3	45	50				40						3	45	50
	15	195	4	40	40	50									3	43	50
	16	187	2	50		30	15								3	32	50
	17	196	1	40	50	55		45			40			35	6	46	55
	19	192	2	25	45	50									3	40	50
	20	185	6	50	20		20								3	30	50
1801	1	211	3	40	40	50	30				30				5	38	50
	2	212	3	35	50	53		48	35						5	44	53
	3	213	3	50	30	50			30	25					5	37	50
	4	214	4	40	50		30	45				30			5	38	50
	5	301	7												0	0	0
1802	1	231	4	60	30										2	45	60
	2	233	4	30	45										2	38	45
	3	234	3	50	45	55		50	40						5	48	55
	4	232	4	40	45				50						3	45	50
	5	242	5	50	40		45							35	4	45	50
	6	241	1	45	55	50		45	63	45	30	20	30		9	42	63
	8	302	7												0	0	0
	9	235	6	45	30	45	35			25	30				6	35	45
1803	1	251	4	65	40										2	53	65
	3	256	6	40	40		45								3	42	45
	4	254	3	30	25					30					3	28	30
	5	252	3	35	25		20			20	25				5	25	35
	6	255	2	40	50	45		50			25	58		30	7	45	58
	7	303	7												0	0	0

# BUST DOLLAR CENSUS AND UPDATE

Oct-94

Based on 12 censuses submitted

B#	BB	R#	006	310	018	013	165	033	446	205	251	219	020	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1804	1	304	7												0	0	0
	2	306	7												0	0	0

			006	310	018	013	165	033	446	205	251	219	020	101			
COINS OWNED			112	93	64	38	34	31	24	18	13	8	6	5	121		
AVG. GRADE			42	37	42	33	42	38	36	25	28	36	40	36	KNOWN		
R#	4		4	4	4	1	1	4	2	1	3	0	2	1			
1			40	46	44	15	45	40	38	30	27	0	40	35			
R#	17		17	13	15	4	3	8	6	2	3	1	2	1			
2			42	36	42	35	54	42	34	25	27	58	47	30			
R#	27		27	24	16	5	9	11	10	7	5	3	1	1			
3			42	37	48	27	40	40	34	24	28	38	15	45			
R#	33		33	26	15	7	12	6	4	4	1	3	0	1			
4			43	37	41	36	43	35	46	26	35	32	0	35			
R#	16		16	16	9	11	7	2	2	1	0	1	1	1			
5			44	39	33	38	42	18	26	40	0	20	50	35			
R#	10		10	9	5	8	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0			
6			43	31	39	29	30	0	0	22	30	0	0	0			
R#	8		3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
7			30	40	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
R#	6		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
8			18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			



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# Capped Bust Eagles: An Easy Variety Identification Method

David Kenny

The thirty-two varieties of Capped Bust eagles discussed, analyzed, and renamed in this author's last two articles are herein described methodically for quick and easy attribution of any particular variety. Kindly refer to the chart on pages 24 and 25 of **JRJ** Volume 8, Issue 3 (April, 1994), for a cross reference of the Kenny, Breen, and Hilt nomenclature. Please note that this article contains corrections that need to be made to this chart. The error was discovered by a careful reading of the variety descriptions provided by Harry Bass, and involves the varieties dated 1799. It is beyond the scope of this article to facilitate the discovery of heretofore unrecorded varieties. While the known varieties of early eagles have been variously described by other authors, it is exceedingly difficult to differentiate one variety from another using words alone. Since it is much easier to compare the details and placement of design elements on coins using enlarged photographs, this author believes that a photographic record of the known and described varieties is the only sure way to identify a previously unknown variety. By way of example, a recent auction held in New York claimed to include a new half eagle variety. This author did a careful comparison of the catalogue photograph (the author also personally viewed the coin) with the excellent enlargements found in Cory Gilliland's book **Sylloge of the United States Holdings in the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution**, as well as using Walter Breen's half eagle monograph's lengthy verbal description as a back up. It was determined that the coin in question was in fact a known variety. Currently, the only photographs available to the author are those in books and auction catalogues. Since these reproduce quite poorly using the photo offset process, the author must wait for a major auction house to offer him the use of their photographic archives to produce a high quality guide that would be useful in the identification of new varieties. Should such a generous offer be forthcoming, both the author and the numismatic community would be most grateful.

Obviously the first and easiest piece of information needed to identify any variety of any series of coins is the date. For the early eagles, the coins dated 1796, 1800, and 1804 have only been found in one combination of dies for each date. These varieties are known by the following nomenclature (some of the 'K' letters denoting reverse dies will be changed later in this article):

96 K 4-D; Breen 1796 1 A; Hilt 1796 4D

00 K 15-N; Breen 1800 1A; Hilt - not yet specified

04 K 19-T- Breen 1804 1A; Hilt - not yet specified

From these three dates the reader can see how limiting the Breen numbers are, since all three dates are designated “1A” varieties. The Kenny nomenclature gives relative position in the die use sequence as well as allowing the easy correlation to other varieties using the same reverse dies. In the case of the 96 K 4-D variety, the reverse die was also used for the production of the first variety of 1797 dated eagles (the small eagle reverse ‘97). The reverse die M (previously called N) used for the 00 K 15-M eagles was also used for the last variety of 1799 dated coins and the first variety of 1801 dated coins. This is useful when trying to determine if one has the rare first variety of 1801 or the common second variety, since one need only compare the reverse with the relatively common 1800 coin or the abundantly available 1799 coin. An easy diagnostic detail on the M (previously called N) reverse die is that the division between the clouds under the E in STATES is squarely in the middle of the E. Eagles dated 1804 have the same reverse as the last of the six varieties of the eagles dated 1803. This is the formerly named 03 K 18-T variety, which is the large reverse star variety without the extra 14th star in the cloud band. This article presents a new name for this variety for reasons discussed below. More about the appearance of the 14th star reverse later.

Since the 1797 eagle with the small eagle reverse (97 K 5-D; Breen 1797 1A; Hilt 5D) is the only 1797 dated small eagle variety, a quick read of the date and a glance at the reverse will identify this variety with certainty. The obverse die #5 is the only obverse with the stars arranged 12 x 4, which is of interest to type collectors. The reverse die D, as mentioned above, was also used to coin the single 1796 dated variety, and is notable for its characteristic 11 leaf branch under the eagle.

The remaining 28 varieties fall into five general groups. The first group includes the five remaining small eagle reverses, all of which are dated 1795. The second group includes the large eagle reverses that have seven groups of 3 pale gules in the eagle’s shield. These are the three varieties of 1797 using the single obverse die with the stars arranged 10 x 6, and the two varieties of 1798/7 eagles. The third group comprises the eight varieties of 1799 dated coins with small obverse stars. All heraldic eagle reverse dies used after 1798 have only six pales in the eagle’s shield. The fourth group begins with the large obverse star varieties of 1799 and continues through the first four varieties of 1803. This includes the 1800 dated variety mentioned above. All nine of the varieties in group four have the small star reverse. The fifth group consists of the two large reverse star eagles dated 1803 and the above mentioned 1804 dated variety.



The five 1795 dated coins may be distinguished as follows:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 95 K 1-A | The Y in LIBERTY touches the adjacent star on the obverse, while the eighth leaf from the base of the stem of the reverse branch touches the U.                                     |
| 95 K 2-A | The Y is definitely separated by a small space from the adjacent star, and the reverse is the same as above   |
| 95 K 3-B | The 10th star touches Liberty's cap on the obverse, and the eighth leaf does not touch the U on the reverse. There is also a small lump between OF and AMERICA.                     |
| 95 K 2-B | The #2 die has been heavily lapped resulting in the 1st, 9th, 10th, and 15th star becoming asymmetrical. The reverse die B now has a large, pearshaped lump between OF and AMERICA. |
| 95 K 2-C | The obverse lapped as above and the reverse with the nine leaf palm branch under the eagle. This is quite rare, with only ten examples currently known.                             |

The large eagle reverse coins with seven pales in the shield (as opposed to the six pale shields used from 1799 on) are identified thusly:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 97 K 6-E | The obverse has the stars arranged 10 x 6. The reverse has the stars arranged in the "cross" pattern with star #2 (counting from the left) and star #8 clearly aligned in a perfectly horizontal line.  |
| 97 K 6-F | The same obverse die as above. The reverse has the stars arranged in the "cross" pattern, but the 2nd and 8th stars are aligned in a downward slanting diagonal aimed at the eagle's eye. The eagle's neck is more triangular than the slender neck seen only on reverse E. |
| 97 K 6-G | The same obverse as the above two varieties. The reverse has the stars arranged in the "arc" pattern. This is the only arc pattern die with seven groups of 3 pale gules, and it was also used for all 1798 dated coins.  |

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 98 K 7-G | Obverse stars arranged 9 x 4. Same arc star reverse as above.          |
| 98 K 8-G | Obverse stars arranged 7 x 6. Same reverse as the above two varieties. |

The difference between the two “cross” star patterns and the “arc” star pattern is easily recognized after seeing the three reverses side by side. Both cross star designs appear to have a diamond of four stars above and to the right of the eagle’s head, while to the eagle’s left there is a line of three stars along the upper edge of the wing. The alignment of the 2nd and 8th stars is different as noted above. The arc star pattern seems to consist of triangles of stars, and the eagle’s neck is more closely related to the “stumpy” necked eagles seen on coins dated 1799 and later. From an aesthetic point of view, the long slender necked eagle of reverse die E is the most attractive. The coins struck from die G with the less attractive short necked eagle found on the first arc star design die are much more scarce even though die G was used with three different obverse dies.

The eight small obverse star varieties of 1799 have these particular characteristics:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 99 K 9-H | The obverse has the wide even date, the 13th star almost touches the drapery, the longest hair lock falls between the two 9’s, and the 1st star is slightly closer to the hair curl than on other obverses. Star 12 is repunched, with the outermost point showing the most doubling. There are two cracks: from the edge through the lower bend of the L and then vertically within the cap; and from the edge into the point of star 8, through the star and then down into the field. Also, the base of all the T’s are recut. The reverse has a rust lump between the U and N of UNITED, the berry on the olive branch is centered under the last A of AMERICA, and the space between the clouds is below the right side of the upright of the E in STATES. The first A of AMERICA just misses touching the feather below it. This die pair matches the copper die trial piece illustrated in Judd as #26, and is the first obverse with the 8x5 arrangement of stars and the first reverse with the six groups of pale gules in the shield on the eagle’s breast. |
|----------|--|

- 99 K 10-H      The obverse can be identified by the wide and evenly spaced date. A crack begins at the rim and goes around star 8 into the field, and another starts from the edge goes through the lower serif of the L through the cap into the face behind the eye. There is also a crack from the edge through the lower serif of the B. The reverse is the same as above with rust lump between the U and N.
- 99 K 11-H      The obverse has the date spaced 17 9 9 instead of the evenly spaced wide date of die #9. The 8th star is close to the cap. The 9th star almost touches the base of the Y instead of the right branch of the Y as on other obverses. There is a crack from the rim through the upper and lower serifs of the L, through the cap, and into the hair. There is a minute lump above the T slightly to the left of center. The reverse is, again, the same as above.
- 99 K 12-H      The obverse has the close date with the 1 almost touching the curl. Stars 2, 3, and 4 are double punched, there is a rust lump over the cap between star 8 and the L in LIBERTY, and stars 1 and 2 are apart while the rest nearly touch. The reverse is the same as the previous three varieties.
- 99 K 12-I      After being used to mint approximately 2500 coins, reverse H has been replaced. Obverse 12 is now paired with a reverse die where the berry is under the center of the right foot of the last A. The space between the clouds is to the right of the center of the E in STATES. The 1st star is away from the cloud, and the 12th is away from the beak, The olive leaf is well away from the C in AMERICA. There are rust lumps between the U in UNITED and the arrow feathers.



99 K 12-J      A crack is now found from the rim, through star 8 and the cap, through the L and across the tops of IBERTY and into the stars. The olive berry is centered below the last A as in reverse die H, but the first A of AMERICA sits on the feather instead of being slightly away from it. The space between the clouds is under the fight serif of the base of the E. There is a rust lump in the shield just above the right edge of the tail.

99 K 13 -K      The “irregular date” variety has the 7 slightly high, the first 9 slightly low, and the second 9 slightly high, almost touching the drapery. The reverse has the olive berry under the right end of the right serif of the last A, the arrows only reaching to the left side of the N, and an irregular die defect inside the C. A crack starts from the rim and goes through the top of the M, through the center of the E, to the base of the R. There is a rust lump under the right side of the U. The olive branch has a short stem that points to the tail.

99 K 13-L      The “irregular date” obverse is paired with a second reverse. The berry is under the center of the right foot of the A. The longer stem points more towards the rim. There is a rust lump between the U, and the arrow feathers. The space between the clouds is under the right of the center of the E in STATES.

The author is now very confused. Reverse dies I and L appear to be the same die. This would indicate that the close date 1799, which was used with three reverses, and the irregular date 1799, which was used with two reverses, shared a common reverse die. The K 12-I variety is very rare, with about five examples thought to exist. One of these is illustrated in Cory Gilliland’s catalogue of the Smithsonian Collection. Close examination of the illustration of the I reverse with several illustrations of the L reverse shows that they are indeed from the same die. Furthermore, since these two varieties share a common reverse, the die emission sequence may be in need of adjustment since there appear to be two intervening varieties before the reverse die I was used again. While this type of

“random” reuse of a die is found in the dollar and half dollar die sequences, this would be the only example of this occurring in the eagle series. The Smithsonian Institution and Auctions by Bowers & Merena, Inc. have supplied photos of the two varieties for publication with this article. The illustrations clearly show the fact that the two obverses share this common reverse die.

What does need to be adjusted is the nomenclature previously published in the **JRJ**. While there are still 32 varieties, there are now only 19 reverse dies instead of the 20 shown in this author’s previously published chart. Variety 99 K 13-L will now be called 99 K 13-I. Subsequently, the eight reverse dies lettered M through T will each be moved up one letter. Therefore, the variety in the former chart known as 99 K 14-M will become 99 K 14-L, and 04 K 19-T will become 04 K 19-S. A revised partial chart appears below. All the variety descriptions following the chart are use the nomenclature shown here and not as shown earlier.

Obv Die	Rev Die	Breen #	Notations	Stars
99-K-13	K	1799 B4-D	Irregular date, defect in C	Small obv 8x5
99-K-13	I	1799 B4-E	Long branch stem points to rim	Small obv 8x5
99-K-14	L	1799 B5-F	Berry beyond right base of A	Large obv 8x5
99-K-14	M	1799 B5-G	Berry center under A’s right foot	Large obv 8x5
00-K-15	M	1800 B1-A	Same reverse as previous	Large obv 8x5
01-K-16	M	1801 B1-A	Same reverse as previous	Large obv 8x5
01-K-17	N	1801 B2-B	Spines in cap from clashed die	Large obv 8x5
03-K-18	N	1803 B1-A	Smooth leaf stem points down	Large obv 8x5
03-K-18	O	1803 B1-B	Serrated stem	Large obv 8x5
03-K-18	P	1803 B1-C	D touches wing	Large obv 8x5
03-K-18	O	1803 B1-D	Arrow extends to right side of N	Large obv 8x5
03-K-18	R	1803 B1-E	Cloud space under upright of E	Large rev 14th star
03-K-18	S	1803 B1-F	Cloud space under E’s right serif	Large rev 13 stars
04-K-19	S	1804 B1-A	‘Defective’ Liberty device	Same as K-14





Obverse and Reverse of the Kenny 99 K-12-I (Breen 3-B).

Photos courtesy of The Smithsonian Institution, National Numismatic Collection.



Obverse and Reverse of the Kenny 99 K-13-I (formerly 99 K-13-L, Breen 4-E).

Photos courtesy of Bowers and Merena Galleries. [ex B&M Stetson University:679]



The five large obverse star varieties are paired with six small star reverses for a total of nine different combinations:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 99 K 14-L | This variety is best described as the large obverse star 1799 with the berry on the olive branch beyond the right base of A. The space in the clouds is below the right serif of the E, and the third reverse star is weakly struck.  |
| 99 K 14-M | The large star obverse is paired with a reverse that has the berry under the right foot of the A, and the space between the clouds is under the center of the E.  |
| 00 K 15-M | The only variety of 1800 which shares the reverse of the previous variety.  |
| 01 K 16-M | The reverse is the same as the previous two varieties. The Obverse has the 1st star close to the curl, the 8th star away from the cap, the L close to the cap, 9th star close to the Y, and the 13th star away from the bust.   |
| 01 K 17-N | This second variety of 1801 has new size obverse stars which are slightly larger and more pointed than the previous four large obverse star varieties. Star one is away from the curl, the 8th star close to the cap, the 9th away from the Y, and the 13th close to the bust. The space in the clouds is under the right edge of the E on the reverse. The stem of the branch is smooth and points down. The obverse appears in two die states: with spines and without spines. The spines in the cap were caused by clashed dies, and are a reflection of the pales in the shield on the reverse. |
| 03 K 18-N | 1803 dated eagles are all from the same obverse die. The reverse of this variety is the same as 01 K 17-N.  |

- 03 K 18-O      The arrows on the reverse extend almost to the right upright of the N, the space between the clouds is below the right side of the upright of the E, the branch first bends down, then toward tail, and is also serrated instead of smooth.
- 03 K 18-P      The space between the clouds is to the right of the center of the E. The D in UNITED touches the eagle's wing, a feature not found on the other small star varieties of 1803.
- 03 K 18-Q      Arrow head almost touches right side of N. The longest arrow extends beyond the N and ends under the I. The space between the clouds is to the right of the center of the E.

It is interesting to note that the federal government opened for business in Washington, D.C. on November 17, 1800. A study of the delivery warrant data has lead both Walter Breen and this author to conclude that the large star obverse coins dated 1799 were delivered between April 1800 and September 1800. Likewise, the 1800 dated coins are thought to have been those delivered on November 18, 1800 and November 25, 1800. It is possible to speculate that the shift to large obverse stars on Capped Bust Eagles was made to symbolize the Federal Government's move from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. A closer correlation can be shown for the change of the obverse die (but not the reverse die) to the one dated 1800, which was apparently accomplished between September 4, 1800 and November 18, 1800, when the first coins dated 1800 were delivered. Again, a speculative conclusion can be made that the 1800 dated eagles signify and commemorate the opening of business in the Federal City. Could these qualify as the very first "commemorative coins" issued by the U.S. Government? A search through the Congressional Record and the Mint records in the National Archives to verify this speculation is certainly in order.

The three large reverse star varieties are easily determined.

- 03 K 18-R      Again, the obverse of all 1803 dated Eagles is from the same die. The first large star reverse variety has the space between the clouds below the right side of the upright of the E. The branch stem points into the eagle's tail.

- 03 K 18-S      The second large star reverse variety has the space between the 7 clouds below the right serif of the E, and the branch stem points down along the line of the lower edge of tail feathers.
- 04 K 19-S      This is the only variety dated 1804, and has the same reverse as the last variety of 1803. The obverse stars are of the stumpy large variety seen on the 99 K 14, 00 K 15, and 01 K 16 obverses. This could technically be a separate type as the obverse stars are different from the large pointy type seen on the only other obverse paired with large reverse star dies.

It was previously thought that the 14th star found in the cloud under the F in OF on the reverse of the 03 K 18-R variety, which was discovered by Harry Bass in 1966, appeared on all of the examples struck from this die. Since many examples of this variety worn beyond the grade of EF-45 do not have the 14th star, it was assumed that the star had simply worn off. This author has seen two examples of coins struck from this die in AU-55 and MS condition which do not have the 14th star. It would appear that the R reverse die variety exists in two states. The first is without the 14th star and the second state is with the 14th star. Judging from the small size of the extra star, it is unlikely that it is the result of clashed dies. The following hypothesis, which could explain the appearance of this minute star, has been suggested: a careless die cutter dropped a quarter-eagle or dime size reverse star punch on the eagle die after the die had already been used. Perhaps this happened while the die had been removed from the press for polishing between batches. At any rate, the size of the star is closer to that used on the two smaller coins' reverses, and no other explanation has been forthcoming.

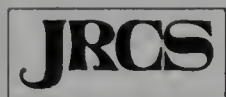
With a little practice and comparison, most of these varieties can be easily remembered and identified without the aid of this article. However, the author admits to the necessity of referring to his notes whenever coins dated 1799 or 1803 are encountered. The next article will describe a useful scheme for forming a type collection of Capped Bust Eagles.

The information provided in this article was derived from the author's personal observations, descriptions and photographs in numerous auction catalogues, the descriptions given for the varieties in the collection of Harry Bass, the descriptions in Walter Breen's monograph on eagles, and photographs in books by David Akers, Q. David Bowers, Walter Breen, Cory Gilliland, and Robert P. Hilt II.





(PPP continued from page 15)



Dear JRCS,

The **John Reich Journal** continues to be an exceptional source of both commentary and information. Keith and Brad are the catalysts - and laborers - who make it happen. I very much appreciate their efforts and dedication to the JRCS.

During 1994, I found two dimes that I believe will be of interest to collectors and students of Draped Bust Dimes.

**Early United States Dimes, 1796-1837**, in describing 1796 JR1, observes, "All specimens seen have die cud at S1 on obverse which increases in size until S1 obliterated." S1 refers to the first star to the left of the date. In the first issue of the **John Reich Journal**, Alan Lovejoy wrote an article called *The First Dime*. The article described the 1796 JR1 dime which had then been recently sold in Stack's October, 1985 sale as part of the Jimmy Hayes Collection. The coin had previously appeared in Stack's Empire sale in 1957. The coin does not have the cud at S1 although it does have clear but faint die cracks where the cud will later develop. The coin is in gem condition with highly polished surfaces and appears to have been a presentation strike. Alan very plausibly suggests that "it is not unreasonable to speculate that it might well have been one of the first dimes, if not the first dime, struck by the Mint." The Empire/Jimmy Hayes coin is the only 1796 JR1 with no cud which I have seen reported.

In March, at the Baltimore show, I found an early die state 1796 JR1. The coin was in an ANACS G-4 holder. The coin has no cud at S1. Four of the **EUSD** authors - Dave Davis, Russ Logan, John McCloskey and Bill Subjack - have seen the coin and agree that there is no cud at S1. Unfortunately the coin is too worn to tell if there are die cracks where the cud will form so we do not know if this coin was struck before or after the Empire/Jimmy Hayes coin.

In the April, 1993 issue of the **John Reich Journal** I reported the discovery of the 1803 JR5 dime. As far as I know no others have been reported. During 1994, I found another. This coin was an unattributed clean G-4.

Ed Price



I want to let the JRCS early half dime variety collectors know that I have found a new 1800 half dime. Jules Reiver has seen the coin and confirmed that is a new variety. The obverse is the same as V2 (LIBEKTY) and the reverse is from a previously unknown die. The reverse is characterized by arrows arranged almost exactly like those of V1, so I thought it was. However, it is clearly different from the 1801 reverse in several other ways. I will submit a detailed article, with photos, for the next issue of the **JR Journal**.

Ed Price

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## **Treasurer's Report - 01-Oct-1993 to 30-Sep-1994**

This is the first treasurer's report that reflects both the full impact of the new \$15 per year dues and the publication of four journals. Basically our income balances our expenses after one discounts the life membership account.

Dues remittance envelopes were included with the last **JR Journal** (Volume 8, Issue 4) and for those of you who did not respond, a post card reminder was sent earlier last month. Delinquent members will be dropped after this **JR Journal**.

Please give the enclosed membership application to a fellow numismatist and encourage them to join JRCS. New members are not only welcome, but soon become the lifeline of our organization!

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Logan  
Treasurer

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**John Reich Collectors Society**  
**P.O. Box 205**  
**Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197**

Statement of cash receipts and disbursements for  
12 month period ending 30-Sep-94

**Cash Position On 01-Oct-93**

Checking Account	\$ 3,726.77	
Life Membership Account	5,750.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Total	\$ 9,476.77

**Income**

Back Issues & Donations	\$ 1,266.50	
Interest	246.88	
Dues	6,027.00	
Life Membership	375.00	
	Total Income	\$ 7,915.38

**Expenses**

Supplies	\$ 284.17	
Journal	5,199.15	
Postage	1,858.10	
Miscellaneous	364.08	
	Total Expenses	\$ 7,705.50

**Cash Position On 30-Sep-94**

Checking Account	\$ 3,561.65	
Life Membership Account	6,125.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Balance	\$ 9,686.65





